

Serving the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities

Inside The Frontline

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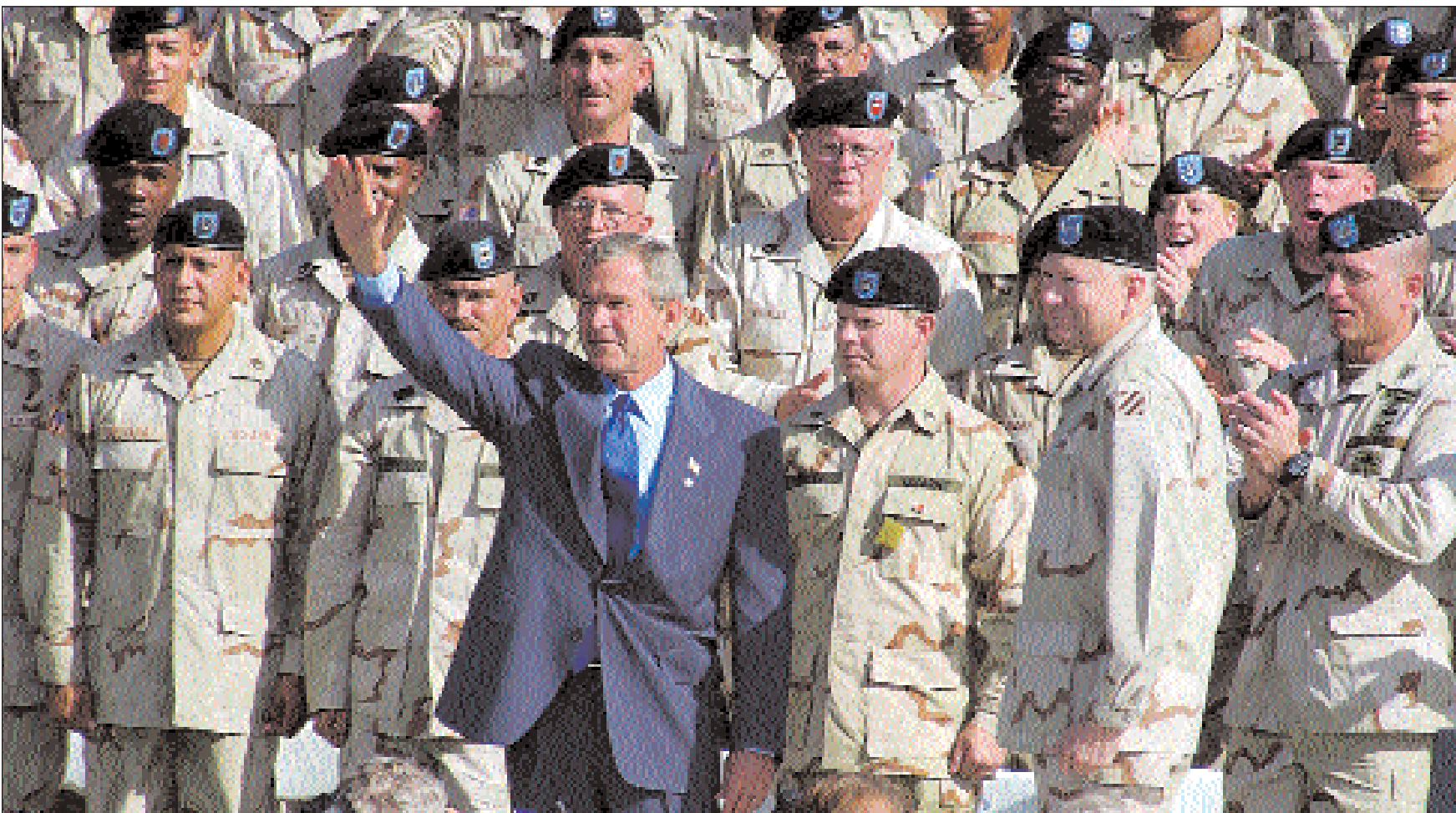
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Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

President George W. Bush waves to the crowd at Trent field during his visit to Stewart and Hunter Friday. Bush presented the Presidential Unit Citation to the 3rd Inf. Div. and thanked soldiers and families for their performance in OIF.

'You made our nation proud'

Bush thanks Marne soldiers, families for job well done

Spc. Katherine Robinson
Staff Writer

You led the fighting into Baghdad the day the statue of (Saddam Hussein) was pulled down.”

A resounding “Hooah!” from the thousands of soldiers gathered on Trent Field early Friday morning answered these words, spoken by President George W. Bush.

Bush visited Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield to welcome home soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) and to thank their families and community for continuing support.

Crowds of supporters, military and civilian, greeted him waving flags and cheering. Georgia Senators Zell Miller and Saxby Chambliss as

well as Congressmen Max Burns and Jack Kingston accompanied Bush on the trip.

The 3rd Inf. Div. Band played in his honor, and Garrison Command Sergeant Major Carl T. Smith ran the crowd through a rehearsal prior to the ceremony.

Finally, after hours of waiting, the President approached the podium to the strains of “Hail to the Chief,” and hundreds of hands raised in salute.

Back dropped by several hundred soldiers in desert camouflage uniforms, Bush addressed the

For more coverage on the Presidential visit, see pages 2A, and 3A. For more photos, see 2C.

crowd.

“After a long deployment, the 3rd ID is now home. America is grateful for your devoted service in hard conditions. America is grateful to the men and women right here on this base who supported your mission. And we’re especially grateful to our military families,” Bush said. “I know it has been a tough nine months for Fort Stewart families. But you have been loyal and patient.”

Bush also presented the Presidential Unit Citation to Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield commanding general.

“You made history,” Bush told the division

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Staff Sgt. Brian Sipp

OIF awards lie out before the ceremony for the 1/3 Avn. Vipers Sept. 11.

Vipers receive OIF awards

Staff Sgt. Brian Sipp
Hunter Public Affairs Office

Commemorating a day marked by sacrifice and valor, it was fitting that 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment held their Operation Iraqi Freedom Awards Ceremony Thursday morning in the battalion hangar, filled with family members and loved ones on hand to show their pride and support.

Pausing for a moment of silence, timed to reflect the exact moment of the first airplane hitting the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, everyone silently reflected on the enormity of the day as well as the sacrifice every soldier and family member has endured over the past eight months.

“I’m standing here in awe looking at this Viper Battalion,” said Col. Curtis D. Potts, commander, 4th Brigade.

“Ten months ago I stood before you and said ‘Vipers, I have heard the rumors of war,’” said Potts.

“Trust your leadership, trust your machines, trust yourselves and trust me. We will be successful in combat and I will not leave one of you behind.”

Smiling, as he looked on the assembled battalion, the colonel acknowledged that they had done everything asked of them and more, and he couldn’t be prouder.

During combat operations, 1/3 Avn. executed 10 battalion-level air missions, countless company and team-level quick reaction

force missions, and medical evacuation missions in support of friendly troops in contact. All of these were accomplished without the loss of a single aircraft to enemy fire. In combat, only three aircraft sustained minor ground fire damage and were quickly returned to the fight. The battalion experienced a 90 percent operational readiness rate during sustained combat during the 21-day war.

Following the opening welcome, Savannah Mayor Floyd Adams was presented a framed picture in appreciation of the support received from the entire Savannah community.

Also in attendance were representatives from The Boeing Company, the manufacturer of the Apache Longbow helicopters that the soldiers of 1/3 Avn. relied upon during combat operations.

“We are happy to recognize your place in history as the first Longbow Apache unit to employ the Longbow in combat,” said Al Winn, vice president, Apache Programs, The Boeing Company.

“You fired the first RF (Radar Frequency) missile from a Longbow in combat, recorded the first enemy tank kill and had the first female Apache Longbow pilot in combat, ... extraordinary,” said Winn.

Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, assistant division commander (support), 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), began the awards

See VIPERS, Page 6A

Man arrested in death of soldier

Patrick Donahue
Coastal Courier

Police have arrested a man for the killing of Lakeitha Sims.

Tracy Howard and Melvin Kesner of the Hinesville Police Department, assisted by the Country Club Hill and Chicago police departments, picked up 21-year-old Carlton Terrell Davis for questioning Friday night in Illinois. Davis was charged with Sims’ killing Saturday morning.

Maj. Thomas Cribbs, Hinesville Police chief of detectives, said

Davis had been Sims’ on-again, off-again boyfriend and had been Sims’ boyfriend at the time of her death. Sims was found in her Eagle Creek Moblie Home Aug. 22. Sims’ mother, Deloris Sims, found her daughter on the bathroom floor and Lakeitha’s infant daughter Lakeiyah unattended.

Davis had been living at the trailer at the time of Sims’ death, Cribbs said. He left the day before the body was found.

Cribbs said the cause of death was an apparent strangulation between late Friday evening and early

Saturday morning Aug. 15-16.

Davis did not resist arrest, Cribbs said.

Davis will have a first appearance hearing Monday morning before a Cook County (IL) judge. If he waives extradition, he is expected to be returned to Liberty County sometime this week.

Courtesy Photo

(Right) Spc. Lakeitha Sims was killed in Hinesville in August. A man was arrested in connection with the killing Friday night in Illinois.





Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Secret Service agents form a perimeter around President George W. Bush as he works his way through the crowd on Trent Field Friday morning.



Spc. Katherine Robinson

A Secret Service agent surveys the crowd from the stage at Trent Field.

Secret Service, 3ID team up to protect President Bush

Pfc. Emily Danial

Hunter Public Affairs Office

When one thinks of the Secret Service, the first image that comes to mind is generally one of large, dark-suited, grim-faced men in black sunglasses in Washington, D.C., always ready to protect the president.

Although this may be a fun idea to entertain, it is not altogether accurate. Even though the Secret Service members' job description contains the words "protect the President," those are certainly not the only words in there — not to mention the fact that these highly-qualified men and women are present in many more places than just Washington.

One of the Secret Service's duties is essentially protection, but that is certainly not the limit of its tasks. The official Secret Service mission statement reads: "The United States Secret Service is mandated by statute and executive order to carry out two significant missions: protection and criminal investigations. The Secret Service protects the president and vice president, their families, heads of state, and other designated individuals; investigates threats against these protectees; protects the White House, vice president's residence, foreign missions, and other buildings within Washington, D.C.; and plans and implements security designs for designated National Special Security Events. The Secret Service also investigates violations of laws relating to counterfeiting of obligations and securities of the United States; financial crimes that include, but are not limited to, access device fraud, financial institution fraud, identity theft, computer fraud and computer-based attacks on our nation's financial, banking and telecommunications infrastructure."

One nearby place the service has set up shop is Savannah. When President George W. Bush visited Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Stewart Friday,

Savannah's Service staff worked closely with agents and officers from Washington and the rest of the country to make sure the event went off without a hitch.

Jeff Thomas, the resident agent in charge of the Savannah office, said, "The local Secret Service office works in a paired-up counterpart system with the President's Secret Service Detail.

The work is essentially handled equally. The White House staff decides who the participants of a specific event are and what venue is chosen. The Secret Service provides the protective umbrella for the event determined by the staff."

There are two types of Secret Service members, said Malcolm Wiley of the Service's Atlanta branch. There are agents, who protect people such as the president and other dignitaries, and there are officers, whose responsibilities lie in securing any area that will be occupied by the protectees. Both agents and officers were present at Friday's event.

Thomas explained how the local office's efforts enabled its members to successfully pave the way for agents and officers who arrived the day of the event.

"The local Secret Service office prepares for a presidential visit by initially providing logistical support to the President's Washington, D.C.-based Secret Service detail," he said. "This includes liaison with local law enforcement on matters of intelligence and criminal history, information sharing, providing lodging, transportation, and equipment support."

On the whole, Thomas said, the President's visit "went extremely well."

He added, "The overall support of the U.S. Army more than enhanced our mission. Their total cooperation made this visit one of the most secure protective operations that I have been involved with during my career. I cannot think of anything that I really would do differently as the plan, security-wise, was executed flawlessly by all parties involved."



Spc. Katherine Robinson

A Secret Service agent escorts members of the presidential entourage to their seats at the beginning of the ceremony.

Keeping him safe: *Marne MPs secure Stewart, Hunter for presidential visit*

Spc. Katherine Robinson
Staff Writer

“He’s possibly the most important/powerful man in the world,” said Master Sgt. George P. Rhea, Fort Stewart Provost Marshal sergeant major. “For all the MPs it’s a privilege to have the opportunity to be part of this event and to be able to provide security for the president.”

More than 100 Fort Stewart mili-

tary police soldiers were on duty Friday, providing security all over post for President George W. Bush’s visit.

Security operations were spread throughout the cantonment area, and started days prior, according to Provost Marshal Lt. Col. John Huey.

After days of planning and rehearsal, working jointly with the Secret Service, the security measures began in earnest Sept. 10,

when MPs at the installation gates began carrying M16s. This was to send a message of vigilance to would-be terrorists and criminals, according to Huey.

On Sept. 11, at 6 p.m., Gate 1 closed, while Gates 2 and 8 remained open for 24-hour access. MPs blocked every road that connected with Gulick Ave., as well as several other roads, Huey said.

The MPs cordoned off the Departure and Arrival Airfield Control Group at Hunter Army Airfield hours prior to Air Force One’s landing there. They also swept the area and surrounding woodline with police dogs.

Checkpoints were in place at both Hunter and Stewart, and MPs were standing by to close others in case the president traveled to Stewart by motorcade, instead of Marine One, his helicopter.

The Fire Department also stood by in case of emergency. After the president departed Hunter for Stewart, MPs remained at Hunter, and locked it down until the president departed a few hours later.

At Fort Stewart, MPs and augmentation forces manned their check-

points. Others pulled security around Trent Field, and Newman Physical Fitness Center, where the ceremony would have taken place in case of inclement weather, Huey said.

“What no one will see is the thirty-man (Quick Reaction Force) staged at (3rd MP Bn.) headquarters,” Huey said. The 293rd MP Co., acting as the QRF, had riot control gear and humvees ready in case additional manpower was needed at any incidents within the installation or at the gates.

Counter-sniper teams, composed of the Fort Stewart Special Reaction Team and members of the Secret Service, were in place on top of the Post Headquarters building and other surrounding buildings, Huey said.

When the helicopters carrying Secret Service, White House staff and press landed near Trent Field, as well as when Marine One landed a few minutes later, MPs pulled security around the landing zones.

The MPs were also responsible for traffic control. They directed the general public to Donovan Field, where parking was available. Before the people could board the

shuttles that transported them to Trent Field, the MPs had to scan them with metal detectors. When they arrived at the field, the public also had to walk through magnetrometers manned by the Secret Service.

The Marne Garden area was blocked by heavy equipment transporters and heavy expanded mobile tactical trucks, parked inches apart to prevent vehicles from driving through.

Altogether, the majority of MP assets, as well as emergency responders, 911, the Fire Department, the safety office, the Georgia Highway Patrol, Chatham and Liberty County police departments, and Hinesville and Savannah police were involved in the event, according to Huey and Rhea.

Rhea said the experience, and working with the Secret Service was educational and enjoyable.

Despite the huge number of man-hours required for just the planning, and even more for the execution, the MPs were honored to be a part of it. He said, “All these MPs are proud to support the president of the United States.”



Spc. Katherine Robinson

A Fort Stewart MP watches the ceremony from a tower over Trent Field during the presidential visit Friday.

Domestic Violence: Abuse can be prevented

Spc. Jimmy Lane
Staff Writer

Domestic violence can be prevented. The resources are available in military as well as civilian communities to receive counseling and stop the cycle before it arrives at an abusive stage.

“The bottom line is that it’s not acceptable to put your hands on another,” said Johnny Cusimano of the Army Community Service. “The whole issue of full blown domestic violence is power and control. Many couples are just young and immature, and they only go by what they saw going on in their homes growing up, so they deal with each other in the same manner. Our job is to educate them about handling anxiety, communication skills and speaking out on their specific needs. The key is education.

The Fort Stewart system of dealing with domestic violence is one of the most aggressive in Forces Command, according to Cusimano. An all year round two hour class on prevention of child and spousal abuse is mandated by the commanding

general, but is also open to family members.

There are many classes provided through ACS to help prevent abuse in the home, including classes on stress management, which educates individuals on basic stress management and provides them with skills to resist or cope with the stresses to which they are likely to be exposed; couples communication, which helps couples learn skills in communication and conflict resolution. This class also teaches people how to learn talking and listening skills to better deal with day-to-day issues and enhance their relationship; and conflict resolution, which teaches how to manage conflict and control your anger effectively without resorting to violence.

Another class to help with prevention is the prevention and relationship enhancement program, which aids couples in communicating effectively, working as a team to solve problems and managing conflict without damaging closeness to preserve and enhance commitment and friendships.

Chaplain (Maj.) Tim Sowers, the Fort Stewart family and life chaplain, teaches these classes.

“Young couples don’t understand how damaging abuse can

be to their relationship in later years. Most couples want things to work out, and we like for them to be educated on prevention before it gets out of control,” said Rose Mullice at Social Work services.

Once a case of abuse is reported, it is mandatory that the couple be separated for a period to cool off. The case then goes before a board to be reviewed. It is at this board that the team of military police, ACS, SWS, chaplains and commanders decide the best way to deal with the problem.

“The main thing is that a lot of soldiers are coming back from deployment,” said Cusimano. “Even though the soldiers are screened for mental problems, many of them lie and pretend like nothing bothers them, or maybe they just don’t want anyone to think they are crazy. They get back home and, especially if the marriage was a little rocky in the first place, when the stress gets to be too much they explode. They don’t admit they are fearful of their jobs or of returning home to problems they had before they left. Our goal is to stop the abuse before it happens, because there are serious charges nowadays involved with domestic abuse.”

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Twenty-four hour coverage was the norm as the 3rd Inf. Div. tanks and bradleys rolled into Iraq in March.

Where's fair, balanced news?

Beau Whittington
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — A striking headline hit the New York Daily News last week — “Flash for the media: U.S. won war in Iraq.”

“The United States and the coalition of its few faithful allies are not winning the war in Iraq — they have already won it,” A.M. Rosenthal’s commentary said. But, Rosenthal added, it would take hours hunting through stacks of newspapers and never-ending TV snippets to figure it out.

While Rosenthal may have overstated the victory, he’s spot on about the coverage. Being one of those journalists who daily wades through the negativism of the mainstream media, I know how difficult it is to find the positive outcomes of the troops trying to rebuild Iraq.

Even the New York Times fleetingly mentioned the subject in its lengthy Sept. 15 article about State Secretary Collin Powell’s visit to Southwest Asia. It attributed Powell as saying he, “found that more progress was being made in securing and building Iraq than had been emphasized in news reports, mentioning for example new parent-teacher groups at local schools.”

The lengthy article continued to discuss the trip by reporting a soldier died that day. Powell was unable to reach an agreement on a faster turnover of power and it outlined the secretary’s dining arrangements.

Nowhere was there another

mention of the school improvements in the fleeting reference to Powell’s statements.

Again, you have to peruse the media closely to find stories about progress in Iraq. But, there are some good news stories.

The Washington Post ran two positive stories in its Sept. 14 issue.

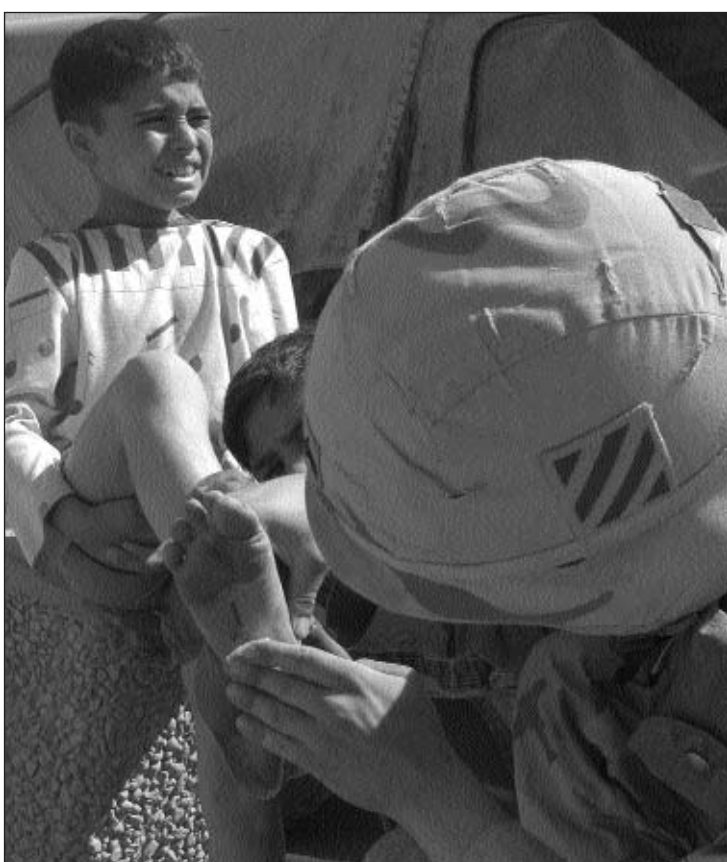
One discussed how American Soldiers are training Iraqi recruits for a new national army. The Los Angeles Times ran a similar story Sept. 16. Both indicated the recruits reflect the country’s ethnic and religious mix. One quotes a “burly sergeant recruit” saying, “We want to say that we’re all Iraqi, and we all are proud to be in the Iraqi army.”

The second, “Giving Iraqis a stake,” frankly discussed the risks and benefits of American efforts to give Iraqis a stake in rebuilding their country.

The article pointed out that even though the summer has been “brutal” the country has not “plunged into chaos or the bloody civil war that experts have long predicted.” The article squarely stated American efforts for diversity in Iraqi hardly guarantee success, but continued, “They do suggest ... Iraq has certainly not been lost.”

Yes, there are a few articles about progress in Iraq. But, hopefully, soon there will be more when reporters open their eyes to a few facts on what’s happened in Iraq in the last four months:

More than 6,000 rebuilding projects have been com-



Spc. Katherine Robinson

Where was the media while 3rd Inf. Div. soldiers were helping the local civilians and children?

pleted. Schools, universities and hospitals have opened.

Iraq is transitioning to a representative government: the Iraq Governing Council has selected ministers and a committee has been appointed to draft a constitution.

This may not be enough to convince some reporters progress is at hand. And, they keep reminding us — Iraq isn’t Germany. Perhaps they should compare progress in the two countries:

Establish a central bank — Germany three years; Iraq two months

Standing up a police force

— Germany two years; Iraq two months. Selecting a new cabinet — Germany 14 months; Iraq four months

How can mainstream media outlets overlook the many gains the Iraqi people have seen since the Hussein regime has fallen?

It’s simple — evil sells and profits abound. Reporters find it easier to sell fear than to build hope through actions.

But, as in Iraq, all is not lost. We will win the media war; it just won’t be as easy as our march through the desert.

New AG top NCO greets 3ID

Sgt. Maj. Mike David
Special to The Frontline

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the great soldiers, civilians, family members, contractors and friends located at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. My name is Sgt. Maj. Mike David and I am a “Soldier.” I am your new Adjutant General sergeant major.

I come to Stewart from Daegu, South Korea, where for the past two years I served as the G1 sergeant major for the most forward deployed logistic command in the Army, the 19th Theater Support Command.

Since my arrival here at Stewart I have found that life in the land of the “Marne Division” is very fast and the train does not wait for anyone. Despite the rapid pace, I am committed to taking

care of soldiers

and their family members by ensuring they are treated with the utmost professional courtesy and all of their personnel matters and concerns are handled in the most expeditious manner. In order to provide you with the best personnel service support service possible, it is imperative that we make a concerted effort to work together to accomplish our individual and collective missions.

To our great professional soldiers,



supervisors and leaders of our soldiers I solicit your assistance in helping me to take care of our soldiers. Some ways you can assist me are to ensure you have viable and active sponsorship programs (reactive and regular sponsorship), ensure soldiers keep their scheduled appointments for levy, retirement and outprocessing briefing, ensure soldiers provide accurate, timely and complete information packets, ensure periodic updates are done on mobilization packets and maintain close and continued communications with our respective agencies.

My office is located in the Marne Welcome Center on the first floor. My telephone number is (912) 767-1031 or DSN 870-1031. I am here to serve you and I look forward to the opportunity of working and getting acquainted with you. “One team, one fight” HOOAH!

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

How did President Bush’s visit to Fort Stewart make you feel?

“It was motivational to see the President. I’m from D.C. but I had never seen him before.”

Spc. Duane Christmas
B Co., 703rd MSB

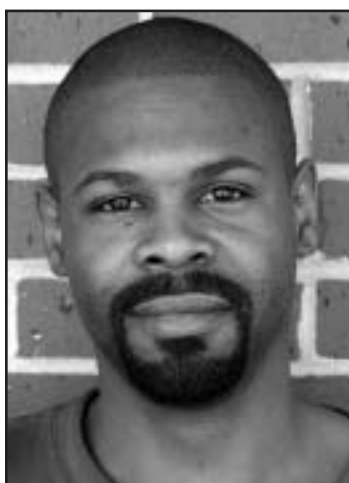


“It was nice of him to come and give the soldiers the award.”

Beatrice Jones
Spouse

“He needed to come and thank the courageous soldiers who fought in Iraq. The unit citation was well-deserved.”

Larry Hudson, Jr.
Boot Shine Shop



“I’m just glad the soldiers are home. The President’s visit really motivated everyone.”

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Minter
631st Maint. Co.
Florida NG

“We were called to Iraq as force protection but wound up doing raids. I don’t think President Bush mentioned the Guard in his speech.”

Sgt. Ronnie Killing
A Co. 1/124th Inf.
Florida NG



“I think it’s significant that this is President Bush’s second visit here in two years. It’s good that he recognizes the 3rd ID for all their efforts in Iraq.”

Capt. Jose Cruz
DIVARTY

Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

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Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941

THE FRONTLINE

MILITARY NEWS: 767-3440
ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526
Volume 19, Number 12
Publisher

3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Commander —
Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III
Consolidated Public Affairs Office
Director — Lt. Col. Clifford J. Kent

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Frontline are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly using offset printing by the Public Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Georgia

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31314-5000. Phone number: 912-767-3440 or 767-8072
Printed circulation up to 22,000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc. a private firm

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in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates are \$9 for three months, \$16 for six months and \$30 for 12 months. Rates are for third class mail, inside the continental U.S.

PRESIDENT

from page 1A

soldiers. “You made our nation proud. And you deserve the Presidential Unit Citation.”

The citation was the division’s second. The first was awarded after World War II, for a grueling two-week fight in the winter of 1945. “A presidential citation is very rare,” Kingston said. “That’s huge.” It is hugely important for the president to visit and award the citation in recognition of the Division’s performance he said.

“The Presidential Unit Citation will go down in history,” Miller said. “I was honored to be a part of it.”

Bush said the division has accomplished many great feats since his last visit to Fort Stewart in February, 2001. “Since we last met, soldiers of the Third Infantry Division have fought in Afghanistan, you have hunted terrorists in Pakistan. You’ve launched the coalition offensive into Iraq.”

The mere fact that Bush visited Fort Stewart a second time is an honor to the division, according to Kingston. “For a president to come some place twice during his first term ... that doesn’t happen everyday.”

The visit and award were well-deserved, said Burns. “These are our

neighbors and friends and loved ones. The people who stand up for our country,” he said. “Never have we seen such power combined with such passion ... it’s important we recognize that and be here to honor (it).”

The president also spoke of his resolve to never give up the fight against terrorism, and said America has already made great progress in that fight.

“Nearly two thirds of al-Qaeda’s known leaders have been captured or killed,” he said. “No matter how long it takes we will bring justice to those who plot against America.

“And we have pursued the war on terror in Iraq,” he added.

“Iraq is now a central front in the war on terror. This nation will complete our work and we will win this essential victory.”

Bush commended the soldiers of 3rd Inf. Div. for their courage while facing hardships in Iraq, and honored those who didn’t return.

“You know the names of some who fought for our country and didn’t come home; who died in the line of duty. You remember them as comrades and friends,” he said. “This nation will

remember them for their unselfish courage, for their sacrifice in a time of danger to America. We honor their memory.

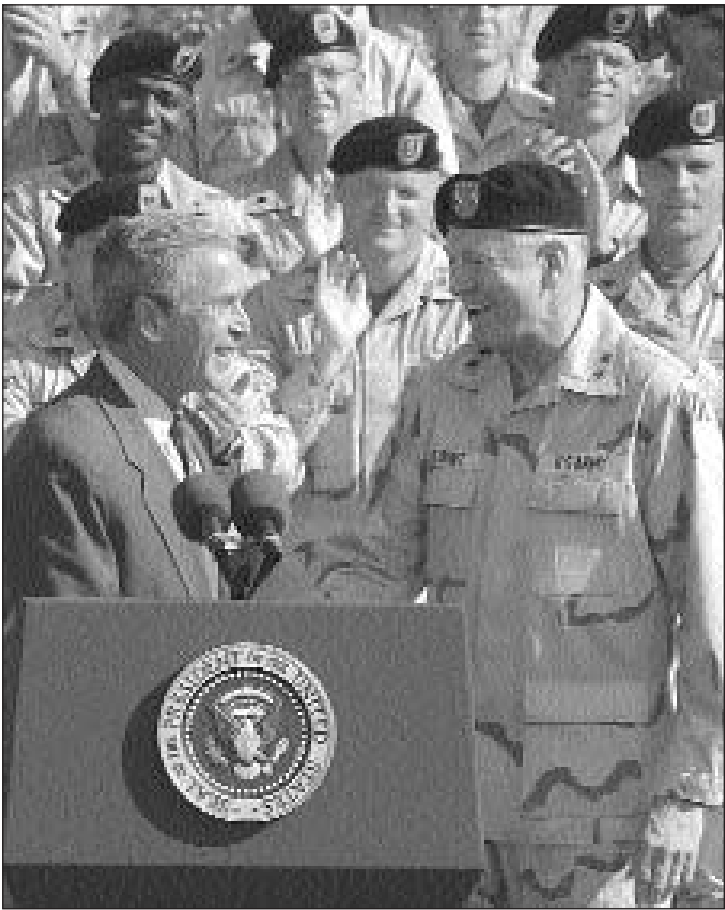
“This base and all of you serving here are critical to the defense of the United States,” he continued. “Our whole nation has been reminded that we can never take our military for granted. I will keep our military strong.”

After the ceremony the president accompanied Blount to the Fort Stewart Headquarters building, where he met with the families who lost loved ones in Iraq.

“America counts on the men and women who have stepped forward as volunteers in the cause of freedom,” Bush said in his closing statement. “Thank you for the credit and honor you bring to our country every day.”

Spc. Katherine Robinson

(Right) President George W. Bush and Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, 3rd Inf. Div., Stewart and Hunter commanding general, shake hands as Blount hands the podium over to Bush after introducing him.



Goal: Zero troops in Iraq, Rumsfeld says

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld reiterated that the goal or the “end state is to have no U.S. and no international forces in Iraq ... because it is their country” in Tuesday’s briefing with Pentagon reporters.

Rumsfeld, joined by Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Iraqis will have to “ultimately” take over the responsibility for securing their country.

“It is unnatural to have foreign forces, U.S. or coalition in that country for any sustained period of time,” he said. “We’re not there as occupiers. “We’re there as people to help facilitate their transition ... from a repressive government.”

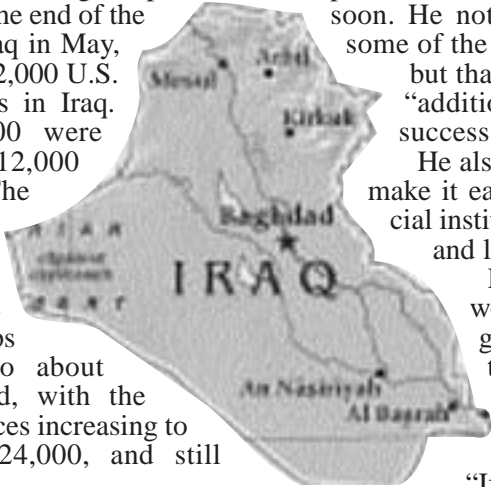
The secretary responded there is already a broad coalition support for U.S. efforts in the country when asked whether the United States could continue its mission in Iraq with-

out support of more multinational forces.

He said 32 countries currently have forces in the region. And, Pace added, another 14 more are discussing sending troops.

Pace said that at the end of the major conflict in Iraq in May, there were some 162,000 U.S. and coalition troops in Iraq. He noted “150,000 were U.S. and about 12,000 were coalition.” The general reported, however, those numbers have changed. “The 150,000 U.S. (troops are) now down to about 130,000,” he noted, with the 12,000 coalition forces increasing to about 23,000 to 24,000, and still “going up.”

“And significantly the zero part of that coalition that was Iraq is now 60,000 with another 10,000 in training,” he added.



Still Rumsfeld said he supported the need for a U.N. multinational force, which the U.S. will ask for in a new resolution to be presented to the U.N. Security Council soon. He noted it would not only “relieve some of the pressure on our (U.S.) forces,” but that he felt it was important to get “additional countries committed to the success of Iraq.”

He also said the resolution would also make it easier for the international financial institutions to participate with grants and loans to the country.

Rumsfeld also told reporters that work in Iraq is being achieved at a good pace, but that it’s going to take “time, patience and sacrifice.” He said that success in Iraq will be critical to the security of the American people.

“If we fail, ... the next battle in the global war on terror could take place here as happened on Sept. 11 and the next time the toll could be higher.”



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

VIPERS

from page 1A

presentation by singling out Lt. Col. Daniel Williams, commander, 1/3 Avn., and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard D. Stidley, command sergeant major, 1/3 Avn., and praising their leadership and commitment to the battalion. He then awarded Williams a Bronze Star with “V” device as well as an Air Medal with “V” device, and Stidley a Bronze Star.

The “V” device on an award denotes valor, and can only be earned during wartime or in a combat situation under fire from the enemy.

Riojas was then joined by Williams and Stidley and proceeded to walk through the assembled Viper Battalion, pausing at each soldier long enough to pin on an award and offer a congratulatory “job well done.”

The awards conferred included the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star and the Air Medal. A total of 366 awards were awarded to the battle-hardened troops who had earned them.

“It’s humbling, absolutely great to be here with our families, and what a great way to commemorate Sept. 11,” said Capt. Rogelio J. Garcia, 1/3 Avn.

“It’s a great honor to earn an Air Medal with a “V” device,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brent Huntsman, an Apache pilot with 1/3 Avn.

“It feels good to be home with our families and the people of the Low Country and Savannah. Their support was incredible,” he added.

“I was glad my wife and three children were here to see this,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 David J. Keshel, an Apache pilot with 1/3 Avn.

“The real heroes, however, are the people that aren’t able to come back,” he added.

Marne TV

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every day of the week. Tune in to the Marne Report seven times a day for the latest from Fort Stewart and Hunter AAF.

5:00am
5:30am
6:00am
6:30am-7:30am

7:30am
8:00am
8:30am
9:00am
9:30am-11:30am

11:30am
Noon
12:30pm
1:30pm

Army Newswatch 1:30pm-4:00pm
MARNE REPORT
Navy News 4:30pm
Georgia’s 3d Infantry Division (UPN special) 5:00pm
Army Newswatch 5:30pm
MARNE REPORT 6:00pm
Navy News 6:30pm
Air Force News 7:00pm
Georgia’s 3d Infantry Division (UPN special) 7:30pm-10:00pm

Army Newswatch 10:00pm
MARNE REPORT 10:30pm
Navy News 11:00pm
Air Force News Midnight-5:00am

September 2003 Schedule

Georgia’s 3d Infantry Division (UPN special)
Army Newswatch
MARNE REPORT
Navy News
MARNE REPORT
Army Newswatch
MARNE REPORT
Georgia’s 3d Infantry Division (UPN special)
MARNE REPORT
Navy News
Army Newswatch
Georgia’s 3d Infantry Division (UPN special)

AFAP offers solutions for servicemembers

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane, Jr.

Staff Writer

Fort Stewart’s Army Family Advocacy Program held its annual meeting Sept. 8 and 9 at Club Stewart to compare and discuss issues that could better soldier’s, Army civilian worker’s and family member’s lives.

“AFAP is the grassroots movement that begins at the installation level to correct issues that affect the overall Army family’s lives,” said Stacy Thompson, program director for the Army Family Team Building group.

“The focus of the meeting is for each of the nine groups that make up the team to present an issue that they feel needs the Army’s attention the most,’ said Vickie Wigington, AFAP program director.

The youth and education youth group was the first to present issues.

“Inconsistency in current high school requirements hinder students that frequently relocate,” said Josh Kipke, the first representative from the group.

He explained that some courses required by one school may not be required or offered at a previous school.

This could prevent transferring students excelling when they have to take a remedial class in order to meet graduation requirements. In some cases, this could delay graduation.

Kipke offered three solutions: establish and implement a process where schools accept transfer credits based upon similar course description, develop and implement a system where completed course grades are converted to the current school grade point system so students will maintain their incoming grades and grade point average or establish and implement a national criteria on the value of course credits.

The second item the youths brought up was the need to expand the Teen Supreme program.

“The Army’s youth experience problems and need an established program to air our problems and develop solutions while supporting each other,” said Jessica Potts, the second youth group representative. “In order to be heard, the Army’s youth family members ...

desire to expand the scope of the already existing Teen Supreme program.”

The possible solution presented was to establish and implement a process to distribute information about the youth council and related activities, establish monthly meetings between delegates of the youth action council and the garrison commander to review issues and solutions impacting the youth or establish and provide transportation for monthly meetings at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Catherine Dennison from the youth and education adult group presented two issues, the first concerned military childcare providers.

“Fees are excessively high,” Dennison said. “Hours do not accommodate the high operations tempo and deployment of today’s soldier and military family. Availability of enrollment spaces is limited, resulting in long waiting lists.

Her recommendations were to provide military oversight and staffing for child care centers, create a military occupational specialty for childcare providers or initiate a new fee scale based on having military child care providers.

The group’s second issue that Dennison brought to the table was dealing with after school youth transportation.

“Off post students, elementary through high school, are unable to access after school on-post child and youth services ... due to lack of transportation,” Dennison explained. “I recommend one way transportation for dependent children attending off post local area schools be provided daily after school. Transportation will be provided from child’s school to designated on-post child and youth centers.

Speaker Monikka Woolfork represented the third group, employment. The main concern was the shortage of medical personnel.

“No matter what time soldiers and family members arrive at the troop medical clinic, they are forced to wait to sign-in, be evaluated and diagnosed,” said Woolfork.

She continued, “A hasty diagnosis occurs due to an overflow of patients and a shortage of medical personnel, which results in inadequate treatment. In addition the referral system is inefficient because it is more time consuming than the process at TMC. In effect, the employment shortage at TMC’s creates a loss of man-

power to the units.”

The solutions Woolfork offered were to hire more permanent medical personnel on a full time basis, revise appointment and referral system or to establish contracts or partnership with local providers and outside health care agencies to supplement TMC shortages,. The medical, dental and TRICARE group, who confirmed an issue brought up earlier; inadequate staffing for healthcare needs.

“It is difficult or impossible to receive adequate care at medical and dental facilities due to increasing number of soldiers and lack of service providers,” said spokesperson Tim Swart. “Provider sharing between family and services members create a short-staffed medical environment. Dental facilities are exclusively for service members yet, care remains insufficient. The Army is people, the lack of adequate number of care providers directly impedes the readiness capability to fight and win wars.

The group had two possible solutions; review and amend battalion level service providers modified table of organization and equipment positions. Ensure that all medical and dental Department of Defense care providers are filled.

The entitlements and benefits group voiced two issues concerning their organization.

“The Army should restructure priority for on post housing, said speaker William Chavez. “Priority for on post housing varies from installation to installation. The vast majority of junior enlisted soldiers have families.”

He said, most junior enlisted soldiers are not financially stable and with the high cost of living they are unable to afford adequate housing due to limited financial resources.

“Junior enlisted soldiers getting priority for government housing will increase duty performance and morale, allow soldiers to become more financially stable, decrease family discord, increase soldier self esteem and increase overall retention Army wide,” Chavez said. Chavez’s solution was to establish a Department of the Army policy that standardizes and gives priority for on post housing to junior enlisted soldiers at all installations.

The second issue for this group was about

providing mid-tour transportation for soldiers during hardship tours.

Soldiers on hardship tours endure financial and emotional stress while separated from their families, said speaker Ed McMichael.

He said, “The cost of high airfare for mid-tour leave (adds to the) financial stress on the families. Long hardship tours in conjunction with operation tempo and extended deployments decrease morale and are directly related to low retention rates and family discord. On many occasions, soldiers go into debt or choose not to take leave because the financial strain of hardship tours unnecessary burdens on soldiers and families.”

He explained that providing no-cost mid-tour transportation would improve the overall morale of the soldiers, reduce financial and emotional stress of deployed soldiers and their families, reduce family discord, as well as increase the retention rate of the Army.

“The Army should allocate funding for soldiers to travel round trip, at no cost to them, to visit their families at the mid point of their hardship tours,” McMichael said. The Family Support Group addressed two issues similar to those offered by previous groups — 24-hour center based childcare and upgrading soldier’s status on military air control flights.


Current child development center hours preclude usage by soldiers who work night shifts, command of quarters, staff duty or regular work day that extend past normal CDC hours, said group representative Donald Turner.




He added the current system of extended childcare previously addressed are inadequate to meet soldier’s needs. These issues addressed home-based childcare, which is often interrupted by permanent change of station, leave, illness and availability of family child care providers.

The group offered a solution of establishing a centralized and affordable twenty-four hour CDC with the following stipulations:

It must be affordable for the soldier and cost-effective for the military, it must be flexible enough to allow soldiers and commands to

See AFAP, Page 17A



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Bush's visit brings back memories of 3ID's first PUC

Compiled by Pfc. Benjamin Brody
Staff Writer

The Presidential Unit Citation, which President Bush awarded the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Sept. 12, is the highest honor that can be received by an Army unit. However, it was not the first time the division had received the PUC.

In the harsh winter of early 1945, the 3rd Inf. Div. was driving deep into Germany, through an onslaught of snowstorms, enemy-infested swamps and fortified positions in an attempt to isolate and capture the militarized city of Colmar.

After crossing the Fecht River undetected in the night, the attack elements pressed forward against increasing resistance. As the troops reached the Ill River, two brigades of the 30th Infantry created a bridge and crossed over. However, the bridge collapsed and tanks could not cross to support the troops. The 30th was met by a full German Panzer brigade, which inflicted terrible casualties on the outnumbered and isolated regiment.

The 3rd Inf. Div. drove onward through mine-pocked snowfields, fighting house to house through the fortress towns of the Alsatian Plain.

Under a hail of supporting fire, the forward troops crossed the Colmar Canal in rubber boats, and captured six towns in eight hours.

The 3rd Inf. Div. then moved across the Rhone-Rhine Canal, and cut off the Colmar garrison area, assuring the city's fall. The division then turned south, and captured Neuf Brisach by crossing its moat and scaling its ancient walls with ladders.

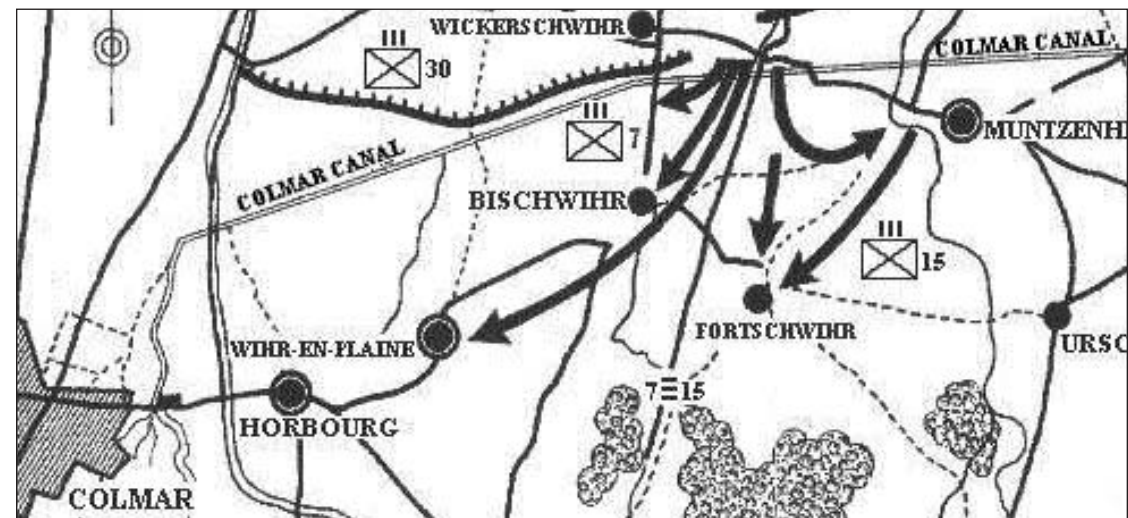
All told, the 3rd Inf. Div. destroyed three enemy divisions, badly damaged three others, and captured more than 4,000 prisoners. The division received the Presidential Unit Citation for their heroic efforts during one of the hardest-fought and bloodiest campaigns

of World War II.

According to the Army's Institute of Heraldry the unit receiving the PUC must display the level of bravery and determination under extremely hazardous conditions that would warrant the awarding of a

Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest citation for individual heroism.

Only on rare occasions will a unit larger than a battalion qualify for this award, making the 3rd Inf. Div.'s decoration with a second PUC a truly exceptional event.



Map courtesy of Sam Smith

The Presidential Unit Citation is an ultramarine blue ribbon framed by gold laurel leaves.

A map detailing the allied advance on the city of Colmar. Numerous canals, minefields and fortress-like towns surrounding the city made the Colmar campaign one of the most difficult of the war.



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CENTCOM News

Coalition improving water distribution efforts in northern Iraq

MOSUL, Iraq — Efforts are now underway to repair the nearly obsolete water pumping system that provides water for more than 325,000 citizens of Northern Iraq. In the interim, soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) have contracted 32 trucks to carry more than 10,000 liters of water every day to villages that the water system is unable to reach.

101st civil affairs and engineering soldiers are working to fix the water system, which draws its water supply directly from the Freedom (formerly Saddam) Lake in Northern Iraq. With the broken down water pumps, many areas around northern Iraq are nearly dry without the water trucks.

The drivers of the water trucks meet everyday at the tactical operations center in the northern Iraqi city of Tall Afar before getting into their trucks. The drivers and their trucks are a temporary solution to the water distribution problem until long-term solutions can be put into effect.

Soldiers host orphans in Mosul

UL, Iraq — Soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion recently gave a group of Iraqi orphans a day filled with fun and games at the Civil Military Operations Center in Mosul.

The purpose of the event was for the kids to be able to have fun in a safe environment and spend quality time with the soldiers. Soldiers volunteered time and services to help set-up and run different events of the day. Some soldiers also served as lifeguards at the pool.

Children from three separate orphanages arrived to participate in the events. Each group was greeted upon arrival and given a gift of a towel with the Screaming Eagle insignia on it. The children then went swimming in the pool, participated in relay races and played games such as pin the tail on the donkey. Winners of the games got candy and snacks.

Each child was also given a lunch of hamburgers, french fries, soda and ice cream. The restaurant on the CMOC grounds provided the meals. The restaurant also provided many of the decorations on the grounds.

Another event of the day was face painting. A local caricature artist painted designs on the children's faces and colored the skin of a few soldiers as well.

Soldiers interacted with the children, swimming with them, playing soccer and simply being a friend.

The children each received a gift bag when it was time for them to leave. The bag contained items such as a t-shirt with the 101st insignia, a beanie baby, a soccer ball and personal hygiene items.

3rd COSCOM soldiers train volunteer vehicle inspectors

BALAD, Iraq — Iraqis will soon assist 3rd Corps Support Command soldiers in keeping Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Balad safe. A security patrol is being trained to assist guards at the front gate of the installation. These guards will conduct pre-inspections before civilian non-tactical vehicles enter the gate of LSA Anaconda.

The volunteers are mostly former Iraqi soldiers. Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Aubain, 3rd COSCOM sergeant major, spearheads the program that he and a team of soldiers developed.

Training includes elements of drill and ceremony, necessary commands, voice inflections and taking charge of situations. The focus remains on the proper procedures for searching vehicles.

Instead of focusing on how to guard the installation, they concentrate on recognizing when something is out of the ordinary, identifying objects out of place and taking command of situations when something doesn't seem right.

Near the end of the training, the military police will come to observe the progress and help fine-tune some of the techniques if necessary. The MPs are the final word on ultimately certifying them as inspectors.

The inspectors who've finished this first class will also be used to help train the next group that comes through. Eventually, about 40 Iraqis will be hired as security inspectors. They'll receive badges that expire in six months from issue. They will then go through re-certification.

The group will pick their uniform, establish their creed and have a graduation where their family members are invited. As their motto goes: Fakhor (pride in self).

Artillerymen, Iraqis spin wrenches to keep coalition rolling

MOSUL, Iraq — Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and local Iraqis are making lighter work with many hands by working together in the motor pool to change out engines and repair hundreds of tires.

Local Iraqis, that had been working with the unit to do repair jobs around their area, were trained in a new skill when they were given a class on how to rebuild spare tires. The men can now break down an average of about 22 tires a day.

The men were hired from the local unem-

ployment office on a weekly basis. They are paid \$4 a day, plus an extra dollar for being able to come to the motor pool every morning to go to work instead of being picked up. The men are all from the same village near Mosul.

The Iraqi men hope to be able to work with the motor pool for at least another month and the motor pool is working to keep the men employed for as long as possible. Next, they will be painting the motor-pool facilities.

Kisik refinery on the road to recovery

MOSUL, Iraq — Coalition forces have hired approximately 70 Iraqi citizens to begin cleaning the Kisik Oil Refinery under the supervision of soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), while employees of the Bayji Oil Company fix the facility's equipment.

Prior to combat operations the Kisik Oil Refinery produced fuel for the entire Ninewah province. When the former regime collapsed the refinery stopped production and looters stripped away many vital components, rendering the refinery non-operational.

The clean up efforts have produced rapid results. The refinery is soon expected to be fully operational and ready to receive crude oil for refinement. This marks a major step toward alleviating the fuel shortages that the people of this region have endured. Additionally, the repair of the refinery marks another step toward getting the country's infrastructure on its feet.

While employees of the Bayji Oil Company work on the machinery to make the refinery operational, more than \$10,000 has been earmarked to repair the administrative offices, firehouse, storehouse and the fence line. Soldiers from the 101st AAD assess the project's progress and report that progress at the daily meetings of the Northern Oil Company in Mosul.

Married couple serve in Baghdad

Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — While most soldiers are oceans apart from their families, only a few miles of dusty neighborhoods and concertina wire separate two newlyweds in Baghdad.

Capt. Lucinda R. Wilson, commander of O Troop, 4th Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and Capt. Tyler Wilson, commander of A Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd ACR, are both serving in Baghdad.

The 2nd ACR, based in Fort Polk, La., is part of Task Force 1st Armored Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Many soldiers think that the married couple have an ideal setup. They live in nearby neighborhoods after all, right down the road from each other — close enough to hear the bullets fly in each other's zone, and hear reports of attacks in each other's territory.

It's easy to see the pros and cons of a married couple serving in a combat environment.

"At night, I can hear bullets fired in his zone," said Lucinda. "Those are anxious times. I'm not saying that it's harder than for a spouse back in the states, but at home, you don't have to see what's going on here."

"It's a trade-off," said Tyler. "Most guys don't get to see their wives. I don't have that problem, but I don't have the knowledge that she's safe at home. When I hear her helicopter in the air, and there's celebratory fire in her zone, I get concerned."

Admittedly, the two must practice emotional restraint. As commanders, the two are obligated to lead their troops and accomplish their missions. With this responsibility, they must do as all soldiers do, and that means focusing on the task at hand.

Lucinda laughs after stating that the two must become "schizophrenic" sweethearts, saying that they have to separate emotionally and focus on their work.

"Here, I am 'Captain Wilson,'" said Lucinda, "not 'Mrs.' Wilson. To make this work, I have to separate emotionally. I have a troop that needs Captain Wilson."

The two mobilized from their stateside duty stations at the same time. Whether their dual deployment is a coincidence or something more, neither is sure. They are sure of each other, however, and each holds a certain pride for the other's achievements while on duty.

"The good thing is that I'm confident of



Photos by Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

Capt. Lucinda R. Wilson, O Troop commander with 4th Sqdrn., 2nd Arm. Cav. Regt., prepares for flight.

his ability, just as I am confident in my own ability," said Lucinda.

Only recently, the two found themselves in a coincidental team effort to apprehend a possible hostile suspect.

Lucinda, flying in her OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter, received a dispatch stating the location of a black Mercedes whose passengers were wanted for questioning. Meanwhile, Tyler and his soldiers received the same call. Soon, both parties were on their way to apprehend the suspect.

Lucinda soon found the car and sent the information to a convoy of ground soldiers in the area.

It was Tyler who received the call, and he and his soldiers raced toward the scene, while his wife circled above.

The two captains worked well together, and the soldiers of A Troop stopped the vehicle and apprehended the passengers.

Proud of each other, and wanting to say much more, the two captains simply thanked each other over the radio and returned to their zones.

The two commanders don't get to see each other much, but every once in a while, they find time to see each other. July 6 marked the Wilson's one-year anniversary. They celebrated the event with a patrol through the city, dressed in full battle-rattle, weapons locked and loaded. It gave Lucinda a chance to see the city from the ground.

"I'm grateful every time I see him," said Lucinda. "I thank God every time."

Capt. James Tyler Wilson, troop commander for A Troop, 1st Sqd., 2nd Arm. Cav. Regt., Task Force 1st Arm. Div., stands in front of his company's guidon.



TRICARE: Coverage to be available for college bound family members

Special to The Frontline

As you prepare your college-age child for this new school year, if they are moving from your home region, be sure to put TRICARE coverage or enrollment changes on your to-do list. Your child may continue to be TRICARE eligible as long as he is a full-time student until his 23rd birthday. Your first assignment is to research which TRICARE option, Prime, Extra or Standard, may be best for your child.

TRICARE Prime, a popular choice among military families, may or may not be the best choice for your college-bound son or daughter, depending on individual health care needs and location.

A beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator at your local military treatment facility, or a TRICARE service center representative can help you decide what may be best. To reach a TSC, call the toll-free telephone number for TRICARE in your region.

As a full-time student, your son or daughter may need to transfer TRICARE enrollment to the TRICARE region in which the school is located. If your child's college or university is located in an area where TRICARE Prime is offered, he may continue TRICARE Prime coverage. Split enrollment gives you the opportunity to have your child enrolled in one region while the rest of your family lives and may be enrolled in a different region.

To transfer or change your child's

TRICARE Prime enrollment, the sponsor must complete and sign an enrollment application or change request form and send it to the regional managed care support contractor in your child's new region.

Your child will have continuous TRICARE Prime coverage while traveling from one region to another where TRICARE Prime is available. Your child should stay enrolled in your home region until he arrives in the new region. The transfer from the old region to the new one is effective the date the transfer request is received by the contractor in the new region.

If you are a retiree family and your family enrollment fees are current, no additional fees are due when your child transfers his or her enrollment to another region. Your child will be allowed two transfers per year between TRICARE regions, as long as the second transfer is back to the region of the original enrollment.

If you are an active duty family, you may transfer your child's enrollment as often as necessary. Your student's enrollment in TRICARE Prime will automatically be renewed at the end of the one-year enrollment period unless you decline the renewal offer.

If you must disenroll your child from TRICARE Prime because of a move to a location where Prime is not offered, he is not locked out of future TRICARE Prime enrollment. However, disenrollment should be done immediately to avoid paying

higher costs under TRICARE Prime's point-of-service option. POS charges are the charges beneficiaries may incur if they receive care without proper authorization from their TRICARE Prime primary care manager. Additional information on POS charges is available at: www.tricare.osd.mil/factsheets/index.cfm?fx=showfs&file_name=POS%2Ehtm.

You also have the option of purchasing a TRICARE supplement (secondary to TRICARE) or student health insurance (primary to TRICARE) if your child's school offers it.

While the basic TRICARE benefit is the same throughout the TRICARE regions, there may be some differences in authorization or referral procedures required by the TRICARE contractor in your child's new region. A BCAC at the local MTF where your child will be enrolled, or the local TSC can help your child with any questions that may arise. If you have a child going to college this year, be sure you understand the rules in the new TRICARE region pertaining to pre-authorization for care.

For more information about split enrollment, transferring enrollment, other TRICARE options and regional contact information, please call (912) 368-3048 or visit www.tricare.osd.mil. For more information on student eligibility requirements, contact DEERS at 1-800-538-9552, your local military ID card issuing office or visit www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm.

Nominations due for Parker Award Nov. 1

U.S. Army Aviation Center

Special to The Frontline

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – Nomination packets are due at the U.S. Army Aviation Center Nov. 1 for the annual Parker awards for excellence among Army Aviation battalions and squadrons.

The competition is open to aviation and aviation maintenance battalions and squadrons of the active Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard.

A Department of the Army evaluation board will meet in November to select a winner in each category of combat, combat service, combat service support and Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) battalion-size units and one overall winner from among those four.

Each unit will be evaluated in terms of excellence in accomplishing its mission essential task list, in the areas of leadership, training, maintenance, and safety.

Details on nomination procedures, including endorsements through the chain of command, are in a document at the Aviation Branch Personnel Proponency Web Site, www-rucker.army.mil/ap/default.htm.

The Department of the Army awards are named in honor of Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Ellis D. “Don” Parker, former Director of the Army Staff. As a Major General, Parker was Commanding General of the U.S. Army Aviation Center and Chief of Army Aviation from January 1985 to September 1989. The award program was named for him in recognition of his achievements while leading Army Aviation during its early development as an Army branch.

For more information contact Capt. Belden (Birdsell) at COM (334) 255-2370, DSN 558-2370 or email beldenj@rucker.army.mil.



Reservists help create EMS, paramedic training for Iraq

Sgt. Mark S. Rickert,
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In a ceremony at the Iraqi Forum building in Baghdad, 31 Iraqis selected by the Ministry of Health received certificates for completing the first of three emergency medical services courses Aug. 17.

Maj. John Kerstetter, the medical integration officer with Coalition Joint Task Force 7, rallied the support of CJTF-7 and the Ministry of Health to make these courses available to the Iraqi people.

According to Kerstetter, an EMS medical doctor with the 109th Medical Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Iowa City, Iowa, creating a first response team in

Baghdad is crucial for the citizens.

Presently, Iraq does not have an efficient telecommunications system, and this often slows the response time of an emergency unit. With first responders on the ground, the team can provide medical attention before emergency units arrive.

“If a person is injured, an ambulance service might pick them up and take them to a hospital,” said Kerstetter, “but there’s no first aid or treatment involved. This course has trained these people to take the medicine right to the people who need it — right to the home or the highway where people need it first.”

“They are qualified now to assess and treat an injured person,” said Dr. Aurora Merovci, an emer-

gency room doctor from Kosovo, who came to Baghdad to help teach the classes. “This class enables the students to offer immediate treatment and save lives.”

Labeled as the first responder course, this first phase of EMS training is a broad introduction to the EMS system. During the first two-week course, students learn first-aid basics, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation and treatment for physical trauma and shock.

“All of us need this knowledge,” said Merovci. “This information prepares someone to help in everyday emergency situations.”

To kick off the training courses, the Ministry of Health selected 31 students from more than 100 applicants for the EMS training courses.

According to Kerstetter, the

Ministry of Health selected the students for their educational backgrounds.

“Most of the students are fairly educated, some are doctors, others are veterinarians and engineers,” said Kerstetter. “These people recognize that this is something new and something good for Iraq.”

Students who excelled in the first responders course will move on to phase two, a five-week course focusing on more advanced techniques, clinical observation, administering intravenous medications and reading electrocardiograms.

The third course is the advanced pre-hospital support phase and will cover six months of material. After accomplishing the final phase, the students will become certified

paramedics.

According to Kerstetter, the goal of CJTF-7 and the Ministry of Health is to certify more than 400 students, and employ these paramedics on the ground. Although the paramedics won’t have an immediate position within a hospital, the formal training offers them opportunities down the road.

“This is a brand new EMS system for Iraq and a new kind of medical care for Iraq,” said Kerstetter. “Eventually, jobs will be created for these people. There are no jobs now because this is all brand new. The goal is to provide education to certify them, so that when the opportunity becomes available, they can say, ‘Here I am. I am qualified to work in your hospital.’”



Photos by Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

(ABOVE) Dr. Aurora Merovci, an instructor for the EMS training courses, oversees the student-demonstrations at the first-phase graduation ceremony in Baghdad Aug 17.

(RIGHT) Students exhibit their EMS skills prior to the first-phase graduation ceremony at the Iraqi Forum building in Baghdad Aug 17.





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1/1 CAV Soldiers Rejuvenate Iraqi Schools

Spc. Shauna McRoberts

1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The desks were in pieces. The blackboards were broken. The windows were cracked. There were no doors, no fans, and little or no lighting. The electrical and plumbing systems were barely functioning. Yet the kids still came to school.

“That caught my attention,” said Lt. Col. Charles E. Williams, commander of 1st Armored Division’s 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment. “Even in these conditions, these kids were still eager to learn.”

After observing the deplorable conditions in more than 30 schools, the soldiers of 1/1 Cav. knew something had to be done.

“We wanted to pick an area of responsibility and this was something soldiers could focus on,” said Williams. “At the schools, you got all the soldiers’ attention because they saw the faces of the children. Kids are the common bond of us all.”

According to Williams, the schools, located on the rural outskirts of Iraq’s capital city, had not been cared for in more than 30 years.

“Under the former regime, the schools in the city were the focus and these small ones outside of Baghdad just got what they could,” he said. “A young soldier asked me, ‘Can’t we do



Spc. Shauna McRoberts

Lt. Col. Charles E. Williams, commander of the 1st Armored Div. 1st Sqdrn., 1st Cav. Regt., poses with an Iraqi boy outside the Manazara Elementary School in Baghdad, Iraq. Williams has spearheaded a campaign to improve Iraqi schools.

something to help these kids?”

The answer was “yes” and that started the ball rolling, said Williams.

Using U.S. funds, the soldiers of 1/1 Cav. started doing initial repairs on 25 schools in May and June, before the end of the school year. The

soldiers painted walls, replaced electrical wiring and plumbing systems and issued school supplies. Williams also had the squadron’s doctor perform medical examinations on many children, invited parents to come visit the schools, and set up a job program

where Iraqis could apply to work as school guards and interpreters.

As the summer progressed, Williams expanded the project. American contractors, Iraqi contractors, and 1st Arm. Div. engineers, working with 1st Arm. Div.’s Task Force Wisdom project, also got involved. Together, they worked to install ceiling fans, lights, and security bars, replace broken glass, and repair flooring.

“This project has been very positive for the soldiers,” said Williams.

“Fixing the schools is a good start to the better future of Iraq,” said Pfc. Charles B. Howard, a scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1/1 Cav.. “Reaching the kids will show that Americans are here to help.”

Williams said he believes the projects have been beneficial to the Iraqi contractors, including one that was a former general in the Iraqi National Guard.

“We’re getting the Iraqis to believe in themselves,” he said.

Recently, Williams took the project a step further. Working with Maj. Gregg Softy, operations officer for 1/1 Cav., the squadron set up a Web site, **Iraqischools.com**. Calling itself the “grassroots volunteer effort to help the children of Iraq” the Web site encourages Americans to participate in the

efforts to repair Iraqi schools by sending much-needed school supplies. The squadron also personally contacted several U.S. organizations, including schools, churches, and scouting troops, asking for help.

“The focus behind **Iraqischools.com** was to help soldiers understand we really are making a difference,” said Williams. “We wanted to show the soldiers that the folks back home say ‘we believe in what you’re doing.’ We also wanted to let the Iraqis know that the U.S. supports them.”

Already, the school supplies have started pouring in. Williams plans to distribute the supplies along with new desks by the start of the school year, Oct. 1. Williams is also hoping to set up a type of exchange program, where American organizations can adopt specific Iraqi schools.

“We want to tell a story to each child where the supplies came from,” he said. “Then we can take a picture and send it back to the organization that sent it, so they can see who they are helping.”

Though there is still work to be done in the schools, Williams says 1/1 Cav. has made tremendous progress in the past few months.

“I have a six-year old child,” he said. “I asked myself, ‘Would I want my child to come to school here?’ Now I can say ‘yes.’”

VA Launches new minority research training efforts

VA Press Release

Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — In a move to strengthen the contributions of minority researchers to biomedical and clinical research, the Department of Veterans Affairs has announced several new efforts to increase scientific career opportunities for under-represented minorities.

“By opening up more opportunities in VA research to minority health care professionals, we’re ensuring that veterans will continue to be served by the best this country has to offer,” said Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. Leo S. Mackay Jr.

With an overall goal of enhancing research opportunities for minorities and increasing funding for minority-serving institutions, the initiative calls for three new mentoring programs:

Supporting institutional collaborations between VA and minority-serving institutions, involving students and faculty from these institutions partnered with VA mentors.

Providing applied training in research on VA-funded pro-

“We believe VA research programs can be enhanced by nationally engaging the leadership of minority-serving institutions, foundations, professional societies and WA research community.”

Dr. Leo S. Mackay Jr.
Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs

jects to participants ranging from high school students and college undergraduates, to graduates and pre-doctoral students.

Offering a supportive career path for mentored research with-

in VA for people who have completed their clinical fellowships or doctoral training within the last two years. The program provides a full salary to awardees for three years.

Mackay noted that VA’s new mentor programs are modeled after successful programs offered by the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The mentoring programs will partner VA medical centers with historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and other institutions with sizeable concentrations of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, native Hawaiians and Alaska natives.

Projected to cost about \$6 million annually, the program is scheduled to begin in April 2004.

“We believe VA research programs can be enhanced nationally by engaging the leadership of minority-serving institutions, foundations, professional societies and the VA research community,” Mackay said.

For more information about the program, visit the website at www.va.gov/resdev.

Editor’s Note: *Following are typical questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.*

Q. Is it true that veterans from the fighting in Afghanistan and the recent Gulf War can only receive VA health care for two years?

A. No, that is not true. Since Nov. 11, 1998, VA has offered a special benefit to newly discharged combat veterans. Under the new program, these veterans can receive free VA health care for conditions that may be related to their military service for two years after discharge from the military.

They may be charged copayments for non-service-related care. This benefit waives VA’s customary requirement that veterans prove a connection between a current medical problem and their military service, or show that they fall below an income threshold.

At the end of that two-year period, these veterans will be treated like combat veterans from earlier conflicts. They can apply for enrollment in VA’s health care system. There is no copayment for veterans with medical care related to service-connected problems or for veterans with limited resources.

Q. Besides health care, what other benefits do combat veterans receive?

A. The newest generation of combat veterans receives the same benefits traditionally associated with military service. That includes disability compensation for those with service-connected health problems, VA

pensions for veterans with limited incomes, VA home loan guarantees and educational assistance for those who contributed to the Montgomery GI Bill while in the military.

Other governmental agencies have their own benefits for veterans. The federal government and many state, territory and local governments have a hiring preference for veterans. Additional state benefits are available for veterans. For more information, see <http://www.va.gov/partners/stateoffice>.

Q. Do military service members who die during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom receive special treatment for burial?

A. Service members who die on active duty are eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. They are also eligible for burial in any of the national cemeteries operated by VA. Regardless of burial location, VA will provide a headstone or marker for the deceased’s grave.

If the remains of the deceased are cremated and placed in a niche in a stone wall called a columbarium, VA will furnish a niche marker. Veterans who die of any cause may receive military honors on

request, with funeral directors generally contacting the Department of Defense on behalf of the family.

Q. Is it true that VA has changed a long-standing policy and now will fill prescriptions by non-VA doctors?

A. VA recently announced a program to fill prescriptions written by non-VA physicians for some veterans waiting to see a VA doctor. To be eligible, veterans must have enrolled in VA’s health care system and requested their first primary care appointment before July 25. Also, they must have been waiting more than 30 days on Sept. 22, 2003, when the benefit goes into effect.

Veterans will be charged a VA copayment of \$7 if the medicine isn’t for a condition related to their military service. This benefit does not apply to veterans who have seen a VA primary care provider or those waiting for appointments with specialists or follow-up appointments. VA will mail instructions to eligible veterans. For more information, call the toll-free number on VA health benefits: 1-877-222-8387.

Q: I have heard that military service members held as prisoners of war for less than 30 days do not qualify for VA POW

benefits. Is that true?

A: Current federal law requires that a former POW must be detained for at least 30 days in order to qualify for the full range of POW benefits. Responding to the needs of service members who were POWs during Operation Iraqi Freedom, President Bush proposed legislation that would eliminate that 30-day requirement.

The proposal also would improve dental care eligibility and exempt former POWs from current co-payments for medications unrelated to service-connected conditions. VA maintains a Web site with detailed information on its benefits for former prisoners of war at www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/.

Q: What is VA’s “national shrine commitment”?

A. When Congress transferred the national cemetery system from the Army to VA in 1973, it declared these veterans cemeteries “shall be considered national shrines as a tribute to our gallant dead.” VA-run national cemeteries are places where the grounds are a beautiful and inspiring tribute to those who sacrificed for the nation’s freedom. The “National Shrine Commitment,” begun in 2001, is a VA initiative to enhance appearance and maintain a respectful setting in VA national cemeteries. Through 2002, VA had renovated 98,000 gravesites and cleaned or aligned 356,000 headstones or markers.

For further information about VA financial payments, call 1-800-827-1000. For information about VA health care, call 1-877-222-8387, or visit VA’s Web page at www.va.gov.



Commissary floor graphics paint new picture



Bonnie Powell

Army Reserve spouse Ashley Ovsijenko pauses in her shopping to take a look at the new floor advertising at the Fort Lee commissary.

Bonnie Powell

DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. — Commissary customers might be advised to pay attention to the floor next time they shop. They might just find some valuable information on it!

A business agreement with FLOORgraphics Inc. allows manufacturers to place floor advertisements in commissaries.

“Customers have been hearing ads through the in-store radio in stateside commissaries for several years now and that’s proven very effective,” said Defense Commissary Agency in-store advertising program manager Edna Hoogewind. “Floor advertising opens a whole new avenue for manufacturers to attract customers to their products and increase sales.”

“It will also communicate the benefits and features of the products,” said George Rebh, executive vice president of FLOORgraphics Inc. “For instance, a manufacturer might want to communicate some of the features of a new product they are launching. People are constantly bombarded with advertising when they don’t want it, but here we have advertising at the appropriate time and when they are receptive. The nearer advertising occurs to the product, the more effective it can be,” he said. “It doesn’t get any ‘nearer’ than this!”

Floor advertising will only be appearing in stateside commissaries for now, including Alaska and Hawaii.

FLOORgraphics Inc., which opened for

business in 1996, works with major retailers and consumer goods companies in nearly 20 countries. This year FLOORgraphics will be among the top 10 on Inc. magazine’s list of 500 fastest growing companies in the United States, and Ernst & Young recently named FLOORgraphics’ chief executive officer Richard Rebh Entrepreneur of the Year.

“Our father is retired from the military so we grew up shopping in commissaries in both Germany and the U.S., so this has special meaning for us,” said George Rebh. “It’s all about creating a partnership and adding value. We are an extension of

DeCA’s marketing efforts and floor advertising is a powerful vehicle to increase sales for products and for the categories as well.”

The ads are hard to miss, too. “Our 2-by-3-foot FLOORads are large format advertising where and when it matters most – at the point of sale, in the buying moment. For brands this is an opportunity to integrate their marketing campaigns right into the store,” says Rebh. “It’s proven to be as powerful as discounting to increase sales, and it eliminates the time and distance gap suffered by every other form of advertising – with FLOORads, impulse is translated into action, and a new sale is made.

Commissaries nix home-printed coupons

Rick Brink

DeCar

FORT LEE, Va. — Commissaries are no longer accepting “home-printed” coupons as the grocery industry comes to terms with the fraudulent use of Internet coupons.

“We still gladly accept manufacturers coupons – the kind you clip out of newspapers or magazines or that you receive in the mail. What we’re not accepting are coupons that have been downloaded from the Internet and printed with a home computer because it’s too difficult for our cashiers to tell if they are valid,” said Bob Vitikacs, the Defense Commissary Agency’s director of operations and product support.

The use of fraudulent Internet coupons is growing in the grocery business and many commercial grocers are also declining to accept home-printed coupons.

Most coupons are legitimate, but home computers and Internet access have made it easy to alter legitimate coupons for fraudulent use, Vitikacs said.

Some analysts estimate the loss by coupon fraud to the grocery industry to be millions of dollars. Fraud ultimately costs consumers as manufacturers raise their prices to recoup losses.

To protect against loss, DeCA officials decided to immediately suspend acceptance of home-printed, photocopied or facsimile-generated coupons – color and black-and-white.

Powell: U.S. should not rebuild Iraq alone

K.L. Vantran
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The rebuilding of Iraq should be an international effort, Secretary of State Colin Powell said in an interview from Baghdad Sunday.

Rebuilding a country after 30 years of dictatorship requires many resources, Powell told CNN’s “Late Edition With Wolf Blitzer.” The United Nations has a number of agencies that can help the people of Iraq with humanitarian needs, he added.

Though some 30 nations already

are lending assistance in Iraq, the secretary said he believes other countries might find it easier to participate either with military or reconstruction activity if there were a broader U.N. mandate.

Powell said such a mandate also would be “a vote of confidence for what the Iraqi people are doing. They’re hard at work, it’s very, very impressive, and I’m very encouraged by what I’ve seen.”

Disagreement between the United States and France over returning full authority and sovereignty to the Iraqi people has to do with timing, said Powell. France has



Secretary of State Colin Powell

suggested a quick turnover — per-

haps as soon as a month, he added. But Powell said the Iraqi Governing Council isn’t yet ready.

The last thing the United States wants to do is “set the Iraqis up to fail,” the secretary said. He noted the council needs time to bring ministries up to speed, to man them, to write and ratify a constitution, and to hold elections.

The United States wants to turn the government over to the Iraqi people with an Iraqi leadership that has been elected by the people, said Powell. U.S. and coalition partners want authority to go to the Iraqi people as soon as possible, and

“don’t want to stay one day longer.”

Powell spoke of U.S. and coalition successes. “Saddam Hussein is gone,” he said. “That awful regime is gone, that threat to the region is gone. A new democratic Iraq will arise. It will take a lot of work, a lot of money and a lot of good will, but it will happen.”

The secretary said he was pleased to help the Iraqi people put together a government they can be proud of — “a government that can never again be called a dictatorship, but rather a government that can be a model for this region and the world.”

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meet extended duty requirements with minimal notification, and commander and first sergeants must authorize after hours usage.

The second problem the group presented was that currently, soldiers on ordinary leave are category III when traveling space available on MAC flights. This does not guarantee a soldier’s seat and may cause the soldier to pay out of pocket to get a commercial flight or spend their leave waiting for a space A seat.

To remedy this situation the Army could do one of two things: Create a separate category for soldier’s who are serving on unaccompanied tours and are on ordinary leave from cat III to give them a higher status than the remaining cat III travelers, or issue travel orders at the beginning of the soldier’s tour with two one-week flight windows ensuring MAC flights travel.

Speaker Shane Gray represented the fifth group, force support. The group brought up two issues; overcrowding in billets and the refining of stabilization policies. “Three per room is unhealthy, unsafe and brings down soldier’s morale,” Gray said. “Soldier’s need space to unwind from the day just like everyone else.”

The current barracks projects that are scheduled to be completed in fiscal year 2008 will still result in inadequate billeting for soldiers, he said.

Gray proposed securing funding to build more adequate billeting to meet the needs of the soldier population, authorize single soldiers to move off post with basic allowance for housing, and to eliminate the movement of soldiers into condemned housing areas.

“One specific example of unfit housing is Hallwood homes here on post,” Gray said. “They were judged unfit for family members, but after they moved out single soldiers were moved in. If housing is unfit for a family member it is unfit for a single soldier.”

Concerning stabilization, Gray remarked, “Interpost transfers and PCS moves cause back to back deployments. Soldiers who return from deployment and transfer to another unit or

installation are not guaranteed stabilization. The current rotations of multiple theater responsibilities deny stabilization for soldiers.”

Gray recommended limiting a soldier’s deployment in a hazardous duty assignment to no longer then six months. This could be accomplished by establishing a stabilization plan that is proportionate to the length of deployment.”

For a six-month deployment, there should be a three month stabilization. For a 12-month deployment there should be a six-month stabilization or rotate hazardous duty assignments to more evenly disperse responsibilities throughout the Army.

The retirement group was second to last, voicing concerns concerning installation access control decals for retired civilian service employees.

Retired civil service employees do not have convenient access to authorized morale, welfare and recreation facilities/activities, said spokesperson Mike Nunnelee. Currently, retired civilian employees must obtain a daily pass to access MWR facilities /activities. Obtaining a daily pass increases the workload and impedes traffic flow at the gates.

Nunnelee concluded that the solution would be to have a publicized availability of current Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield MWR decal and to amend the current regulation to include a retired DOD civilian decal for DOD wide use.

The last group to present an issue was the Hunter Army Air Field group represented by Susie Potts. The group’s only issue was to have a more equitable allocation of resources between Hunter and Fort Stewart to better meet the needs of the Hunter community.

According to Potts soldiers and Family Members at Hunter are frustrated with the shortage of personnel in vital roles in community agencies, primarily at the CDC, registration personnel at the Army Community Service, patient and TRICARE representatives at Tuttle Clinic and the lack of evening hours at the Education Center. There is an overall lack of division wide information that is specific to Hunter.

They are frustrated with the misinformation or lack of information given when part-time Hunter personnel are unavailable during business hours, such as patients being told there is no EFMP available for Hunter families when there really is, said Potts.

Potts voiced possible solutions such as allocating more personnel hours for vital roles in community agencies, implementing a two-way flow of information Hunter and Stewart agencies with regard to community polices and procedures. Furthermore, a contingencies plan should be executed for part-time personnel during their absences and times of high OPTEMPO and deployment, so that services do not come to a halt.

After each group had its say, Brig. Gen. Jose D. Riojas, Assistant Division, reviewed the topics with the audience and discussed any possible solutions. The issues that could be solved at installation level were dealt with at the meeting. One particular issue Riojas focused upon was that of the force support group’s billeting for soldiers.

“This issue has been an ongoing concern for post leaders,” Riojas said. “Our solution is to give junior enlisted soldiers basic allowance for housing with the permission of a full bird colonel.”

Towards the end of the meeting, the audience voted on the issue that was most compelling by standing up as Riojas named each issue. A head count of people standing was taken to determine which issues would be sent on to the next level.

The two issues that won the most votes was the MOS for childcare and the priority for MAC flight travelers.

“If the problem cannot be dealt with at this level, it is sent up to be reviewed by AFAP members at the southeast regional meeting to determine if the issues are local or global. The issues that can be dealt with at an installation level are sent back down to us,” said Thompson. “It is possible that other installations are having the same problems. If the issue is great enough, and the solution is specific enough it goes all the way to the Department of Defense.”

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
 - **Charges:** Disorderly conduct
 - **Location:** Savannah
 - **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Disorderly conduct
 - **Location:** Savannah
 - **Subject:** Lance Corporal, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, driving too fast for conditions, endangering a child by DUI
 - **Location:** Savannah
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Division Support Command
 - **Charges:** Failure to exercise due care
 - **Location:** Hunter
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, open container, loud music
 - **Location:** Hinesville
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Aviation Brigade
 - **Charges:** Speeding 82/55
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to stop at a stop sign, no proof of insurance, must register vehicle in Georgia within 30 days
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to show proof of insurance
 - **Location:** Hunter
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Driving while under the influence, no proof of insurance
 - **Location:** Savannah
 - **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 33-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding
 - **Location:** Savannah
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old female, Headquarters Command
 - **Charges:** Following too closely
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 40-year-old male, 24th Corps Support Group
 - **Charges:** Improper left turn
 - **Location:** Hunter
 - **Subject:** Civilian, 22-year-old male
 - **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
 - **Location:** Hunter
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
 - **Location:** Savannah
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Civilian, 21-year-old female
 - **Charges:** Simple assault, assault consummated with a battery
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private1st Class, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Theft by conversion
 - **Location:** Hinesville
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Family member, 51-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Theft by shoplifting
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 32-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence
 - **Location:** Hinesville
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate battalion

- **Charges:** Underage drinking, disorderly conduct
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Master Sergeant, 53-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine, wrongful use of amphetamine/d-methamphetamine
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 30-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Simple assault — consummated with assault
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 2nd Brigade
 - **Charges:** Driving under the age (underage), speeding (81/55)
 - **Location:** Richmond Hill
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Improper backing
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Family member, 36-year-old female
 - **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 19-year-old female, Headquarters Command
 - **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Captain, 39-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Improper backing
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Simple battery, cruelty to children
 - **Location:** Hinesville
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Failure to use due care
 - **Location:** Hunter
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Improper backing
 - **Location:** Hunter
 - **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
 - **Charges:** Simple battery, interfering with 911 call
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Welcome Home Soldiers

There will be a welcome home celebration Saturday, Oct. 4. There will be three different events.

A free picnic will be held at Donovan Field, 1 to 5 p.m. sponsored by the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee and MWR.

Free fair rides for military ID cardholders at Walker Field, 1 to 5 p.m. Trolly cars will provide free transportation between Donovan and Walker Field.

Free MWR Concert at Donovan Field at 7 p.m. Performers will be announced in The Frontline in September.

School absences conditional

Fort Stewart Schools (Diamond and Brittin) will support recently deployed soldiers, within reason and within available resources, when requesting a student absence.

Students will be considered excused during block leave. Parents are encouraged to coordinate with the student's teacher on missed homework/class assignments. Time away from school should be kept at a minimal

Liberty County Schools will grant up to five days of unexcused absence during block leave for children of deployed soldiers.

Soldiers are required to provide a written request to the school principal which states the reason for the absence and projected dates that the student will be out of school.

Students will be allowed to make up missed homework/assignments. Teachers will work with students to ensure that they do not fall behind in the classroom. Since Liberty County schools are required to follow the No-Child-Left-Behind mandate and are grade by attendance, students will be required to be re-enrolled in school if an absence exceeds five days.

Ladies Bowling Leagues

The 2003-2004 women's bowling season is about to start at Marne and Stewart Lanes. Women must have a WIBC sanction card which are usually purchased on the first night of bowling and are good for one year.

For more information or to sign up visit either facility.

Main Gate

Gate 1 has only one accessible inbound lane and one accessible out bound lane.

All inbound traffic entering through Main Gate is routed to a new four-way stop located where General Stewart Way intersects with Memorial Drive and proceeds to General Screven Way.

Construction will be on-going during this period. To alleviate the traffic flow 4th Street Gate (Gate 2/Troupe Gate) is open.

Family Assistance Center

Army Community Service at Fort Stewart scaled back its Family Assistance Center hours of operation. New hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Weekends will be handled with an on call roster and phones forwarded to EOC.

Main Education Center

The Main Education Center, Building 130, is discontinuing its Saturday hours as of Oct. 4.

Computer usage is available at the Marne Multimedia Center Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. until 9 p.m., and Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 8 p.m.

There are also other learning centers in buildings 1237, 729, 506 and 208 where computers may be accessed as well. If you have any questions or need more information please call 767-8331.

Hire a teen

Teens need jobs! Hire them to help you with your daily tasks, such as – pet care, window cleaning, car washing, babysitting, assisting with parties and many other chores or duties.

Community Fair

This event will be held Oct. 1 through 5 at Walker Field. Free admission and rides priced individually.

Hours of operation are Wednesday through Friday, 5 p.m. until midnight, Saturday, noon until midnight, and Sunday 1 p.m. until midnight.

Tickets will sold at the Fair

Veterans Appreciation Day

American Legion Post 135 will be having a veterans' appreciation day Sept. 20, starting at 6 p.m.

There will be refreshments, finger foods and music. The event will be held at the American Legion Post 135 at 1108 Bull Street, Savannah. The event is free and all veterans and their guests are invited to attend.

For more information call John Williford at 233-9277.

Hunter Community Meeting

There will be a community meeting Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Hunter ACS building, located across from the PX. A lot of new things are happening, so everyone is encouraged to attend and be heard.

Topics of discussion will include, but are not limited to, the new RCI housing plan at Hunter, gate construction and traffic developments. The meeting is an open forum to address all issues in the Hunter community.

Middle School and teens

Registration is now underway for free after school program for 6th through 8th graders. Hours will be 2:30 to 6 p.m.

“Come to the living water”

The Protestant Women of the Chapel present their Fall them at the Post Chapel 11 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 21. They will preview other Bible studies and get acquainted with other members.

Weekly meetings at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. every Thursday starting Sept. 25.

Free childcare and homeschool program. Please call Julie Kelly, 353-9717 or Lamuir Baze at 961-0895.

Morning road closure

North Perimeter Road from the 117th Tactical Control Squadron to the Stephen Douglas Street intersection will be closed to vehicular traffic from 6-7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday to support unit physical fitness programs.

Ask your unit first sergeant or contact the Hunter Safety Office for Hunter's physical training policies, by calling 352-5814.

Hunter

American Red Cross

The Savannah Chapter of the American Red Cross has FREE toiletry items, such as soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, for soldiers and family members. For more information call (912)651-5300

Skeet Range

The skeet range is open 4-9 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Fort Stewart and Hunter Hunting and Fishing Permits. Georgia State Hunting and Fishing licenses are also sold in Bldg. 8250.

An education course is required for an on-post hunting permit. For more information, call 352-5916

Bible study

A weekly Bible study will be held in the building adjacent to the post chapel Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Youth Services

School Age Services (SAS) opens 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. during school. Also, before and after school programs for 1st through 5th graders. Enjoy fun and leisure activities, educational, tutoring, computer lab, sports, fitness and more.

Join 4-H community club, photography and technology groups. Check with your school for transportation. For more information call 352-5708 or 352-6705.

Boaters Safety Course

Free course held at 10 a.m., Saturdays. Call 352-5722.

Keystone Club

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. This club offers Character Counts activities as well as other activities that meet physical, emotional and social needs and interests of girls and boys through diversified program activities in six areas:

- Personal and Educational Development
- Cultural Enrichment
- Social Recreation
- Citizenship and Leadership Development
- Outdoor and Environmental Education

Winn Army Community Hospital

TRICARE Classes

The next Explanation of Benefits TRICARE class will be held 10 to 11 a.m. Oct. 2 at Tuttle. This class helps beneficiaries understand their statements. To register, call 692-8724.

TRICARE Authorization

Soldiers or family members who receive emergent or urgent medical care outside the area must have TRICARE authorization within 24 hours of receiving care.

Winn

Active-duty soldiers should call daytime at (912) 767-7035 and evening at (912) 370-6965. Family members can call 1-800-333-4040 24 hours a day, seven days a week or (912) 370-6965.

Tuttle

Active-duty soldiers should call daytime 1-800-652-9221 and evening at (912) 370-6965. Family members can call 1-800-333-4040 24 hours a day, seven days a week or (912) 370-6965.

Exceptional Program

The next Exceptional Family Member Program enrollment orientation will be 1:30 to 3 p.m. Oct. 23 at Winn. Meet other families and learn about other community support services. For more information, call 370-6505.

Winn Seeks Volunteers

Winn is looking for adult volunteers to help out in a wide range of areas from administrative specialists to chaperones to certified or licensed nurses. For more information, call 370-6903.

Expectant Siblings Class

The next Expectant Siblings class will be 5 p.m. Sept. 24. This class helps prepare children ages 4 to 12 for the arrival of a new brother or sister. To register, call 370-6017/6670.

Intervention Services

Families with children up to 3-years-old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening. Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech

and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments. For more information, call 370-6349.

“Take Care of Yourself”

The next “Take Care of Yourself” classes at Winn will be 2 to 3 p.m. Sept. 10 and 11 a.m. to noon Sept. 24. Tuttle's class will be held 10 to 11 a.m. Sept. 24. The class gives an overview of how to use the “Take Care of Yourself” book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle.

To register for Sept. 10, call 370-5071; to register for Winn's Sept. 24 class, call 368-3048 and for Tuttle's class, call 1-800-652-9221.

Tobacco Cessation classes

The next Tobacco Cessation class at Winn will begin 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 18. Tuttle's class will begin Oct. 1. The classes are held one day a week for four consecutive weeks. To register at Winn, call 370-5071; to register at Tuttle, call 1-800-652-9221.

Family Reunion Support

Family reunion support is available for families having difficulty adjusting after a deployment. Support is available by appointment or on a walk-in basis. For more information, call 370-6100 or 370-6111.

Expectant Parenting Class

The next Expectant Parenting Class will begin 6 p.m. Oct. 7. The four-week class helps parents to understand labor, delivery and newborn care. To register, call 767-6633.

Tuttle TRICARE enrollment

TRICARE enrollment briefings for Tuttle are held by appointment from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday. To schedule an appointment, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Family Health Clinics reopen

Soldier Family Health Clinic #2 will be open for sick call beginning Sept. 15. SFHC #1 and #3 are currently open for sick call.

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‘War’s biggest raid on terror’

101st Airborne raids terror camp

Pfc. Chris Jones

40th PAD

SOUTHWEST IRAQ — On the eve of the second anniversary of the biggest terrorist attack ever against the United States, Soldiers of the 101st countered with their own attack, capturing 79 suspected terrorists.

Before sunrise Sept. 10, a light force of soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) stormed a suspected terrorist training camp in Southwest Iraq. Soldiers from B Co., 502nd Infantry Regiment and Pathfinder Company’s 6th Battalion led the charge.

The soldiers rehearsed the raid for two days before the attack, including night drills.

Before dawn, six Chinook were filled with

infantrymen and a small team of engineers from 326th Engineer Battalion. The choppers landed on the outskirts of the camp. The infantry platoon secured the housing area while the pathfinders targeted all other places. Once the area was secured, the infantry platoon and pathfinders cleared outlying buildings.

In less than four hours, the site was secured.

With 79 suspected terrorists detained, it was the biggest raid against terrorism in the war, said Lt. Col. Steve Countouriotis, commander of 6th Bn. Along with the suspects, the soldiers found a stash of \$60,000 and more than one million Iraqi dinar. They also uncovered weapons caches and electronic devices.



Pfc. Chris Jones

Soldiers break into a barracks room at a suspected terrorist training camp in Southwest Iraq Sept. 10.

Councils pave road to Iraqi democracy

Cpl. Todd Pruden

372 MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — City, district and neighborhood councils are paving the way toward democracy and self-government in Baghdad.

“It’s been working very well,” Brewer said. “It’s a voice of the citizens to the military,” said Capt. Robert Brewer, civil military officer, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division, about the councils’ efforts in working with coalition forces to rebuild the area.

Weekly council members meet with 1st Arm. Div. officials to discuss food rations, electricity, water and sewage. Most

problems can be solved at the neighborhood or district levels, Brewer said, however, if the problem is too complex to solve it can be taken to the next level.

“If it is something that needs greater attention, they take it to the city council,” said Brewer.

There are some kinks in the system, however.

“Our problems are much bigger than our power,” said Abdul Hamid Al-Adamy, the district chairman of the Ad Hamiya district of Baghdad. “We wish, in the near future, to solve problems more easily.”

There are 88 neighborhood advisory councils and nine district councils in the city. District council

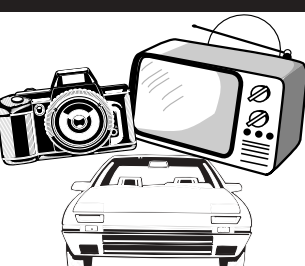
members are selected from the neighborhood councils. The number of neighborhood representatives on the district council is based upon the community’s population.

The Baghdad City Advisory Council consists of 37 members drawn from the district councils and is also based on the district’s population.

Even though democracy is new to the people of Iraq, the representatives are happy the people have a say in how government is run.

“We are not used to dealing with freedoms like Americans,” said Al-Adamy. “Your (coalition) achievement has been very good in Iraq.”

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